

# Safe Driving Tips

- 1** Wear your seat belt at all times, regardless of whether you are a driver or a passenger. Make sure that your children are always properly buckled up too.
- 2** Always drive with your headlights on. Make it easier for other vehicles to see you.
- 3** Make sure your vehicle is always in good repair.
- 4** Observe the speed limit at all times.
- 5** Stay alert when driving regardless of how good road or weather conditions may be.
- 6** Never get behind the wheel when you are tired or when you have been drinking alcohol.
- 7** Always stop when you see a stationary school bus with its overhead red lights flashing.
- 8** Watch out for pedestrians at all times, not just at intersections.
- 9** Try to maintain a safety gap all around your vehicle so that you have space to manoeuvre in case of an emergency.
- 10** Protect yourself by wearing a helmet whenever you are riding a motorcycle, moped, snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or a bicycle.

# Answers

- 1 a)** Ontario has a driver population of more than six million people.
- 2 c)** Ontario has the second lowest rate of driver seat belt use in the country, at only 72% (P.E.I. is lowest, at 65%). Quebec is the province with the highest rate—94%, while the national rate is 82%. In fact, in Ontario, statistics show that if seat belts are worn and worn correctly at the time of collision, more than 200 drivers and passengers might not die annually in crashes.
- 3 b)** Children weighing less than 18 kg must be restrained in a child safety seat. If they are over 9 kg and, on occasion, travel in a vehicle not owned by their parent or guardian, and no child safety seat is available, they must always use a lap belt. However, it is always safer for a child to be restrained in a child safety seat. Once they weigh more than 18 kg, they must use a regular seat belt. Children should never share a seat belt.
- 4 c)** In recent years, just over 1,200 people have been killed in vehicle collisions each year, and roughly 120,000 injured.
- 5 a)** Driving too quickly—either over the speed limit or too fast for the road and weather conditions—is the most common driver error in fatal collisions.
- 6 b)** Over the past 10 years, alcohol involvement in vehicle crashes has been slowly declining. However, it is still a major factor in many accidents, especially ones in which the driver is killed. Over the past couple of years, roughly four out of 10 drivers killed in crashes were drinking before they got behind the wheel.
- 7 b)** Drivers are legally impaired when their blood alcohol content reaches 0.08. At that point, first-time offenders in Ontario face a licence suspension of one year. In addition, anyone found to be driving when their blood alcohol content is over 0.05 can have their licences immediately suspended by the police for 12 hours.
- 8 c)** Drivers aged 16 to 19, particularly males, have more than double the collision rates of the other two groups. They also have the highest death rate; in fact, crashes are the leading cause of death for 16-to-19-year-olds in Ontario.
- 9 c)** Trucks have the lowest collision rate per kilometre driven of all vehicles on Ontario roads. They also travel greater distances than other vehicles, so they are exposed to greater risk of a crash. The fact that they often manage to avoid those collisions shows that the more you drive, the better a driver you will be.
- 10 b)** Most accidents occur on open stretches of road, where no intersections, driveways, underpasses or railway crossings are involved.
- 11 c)** In recent years, roughly 60% of collisions have occurred on dry roads, while only about 6% have occurred where roads are icy. Even fewer have taken place on snowy roads. These statistics emphasize the need to stay alert and be on guard, regardless of the road conditions.
- 12 a)** Studies of collisions over the past 30 years have concluded that 85% of all road crashes can be attributed to human error. A total of 10% is attributed to road design and environmental factors such as wet pavement and five per cent is attributed to vehicle defects.
- 13 a)** You must come to a full stop when approaching from all directions and wait until the overhead red flashing lights are off and the stop arm is retracted, before you drive on. If motorists are on a highway divided by a median strip, traffic coming toward the school bus does not need to stop. A median strip is constructed to separate traffic travelling in opposite directions.
- 14 c)** If you are licensed to drive a car, you may also drive a van or a small truck, such as a pick-up. However, special licences are needed for all other types of vehicles — school buses, motorcycles, tractor trailers, ambulances and public transit vehicles.
- 15 a) and c)** You are required by law to wear a helmet when driving any motorized wheeled vehicles such as snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds. However, a helmet is strongly recommended when riding a bicycle.
- 16 c)** It has been estimated that helmets would prevent 85% of the cyclist deaths caused by head injuries.
- 17 c)** Most pedestrians are injured while crossing the road correctly, at an intersection and when they have the right- of-way. However, most are killed when they cross an intersection that has no stop sign or traffic light.
- 18 b)** You are required to drive with headlights on, beginning half an hour before sunset and ending half an hour after sunrise. You must also use your headlights when weather conditions limit your visibility. However, since headlights always make your vehicle more visible, even in daytime, it is wise to get into the habit of using your headlights at all times.

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# Questions (see other side for answers)

**1** Ontario's population is roughly nine and a half million people. How many of those people do you think are out driving on our province's roads?

- ☒ a) More than six million
- ☐ b) More than four million
- ☐ c) More than two million

**2** In 1976, Ontario became the first jurisdiction in North America to introduce mandatory seat belt use. Now, 15 years later, how does Ontario rank, compared to other provinces, in buckling up?

- ☒ a) Ontario has the highest rate of seat belt use.
- ☐ b) Ontario ranks in the middle, with the fifth highest rate of seat belt use.
- ☐ c) Ontario has the second lowest rate of seat belt use.

**3** What does the law say about small children and seat belts?

- ☐ a) Children under the age of four must use a seat belt or be restrained in a child safety seat.
- ☐ b) Children weighing less than 18 kg (40 lb.) must be restrained in a child safety seat.
- ☒ c) Infants under 9 kg (20 lb.) must be restrained in a child safety seat. Once they weigh more, they may use their safety seat or share a seat belt with an adult.

**4** How many people do you think are killed or injured in vehicle collisions in Ontario each year?

- ☐ a) Roughly 500 killed and 10,000 injured
- ☐ b) Roughly 1,200 killed and 30,000 injured
- ☐ c) Roughly 1,200 killed and 120,000 injured

**5** What is the most common driver error in fatal collisions?

- ☒ a) Speeding
- ☐ b) Inattentiveness
- ☐ c) Improper lane changes

**6** Of all the drivers killed in crashes in Ontario, how many have been drinking?

- ☐ a) Six out of 10
- ☒ b) Four out of 10
- ☐ c) One out of 10

**7** At what point does the law say that drivers are impaired?

- ☐ a) When their blood alcohol content is 0.05.
- ☒ b) When their blood alcohol content is 0.08.
- ☐ c) When their blood alcohol content is 0.8.

**8** Which group do you think has the highest collision rate?

- ☐ a) Drivers aged 60 to 69
- ☐ b) Drivers aged 25 to 59
- ☒ c) Drivers aged 16 to 19

**9** Which type of vehicle has the lowest collision rate per kilometre driven?

- ☐ a) Automobile
- ☐ b) Motorcycle
- ☒ c) Truck

**10** Where do most vehicle accidents take place?

- ☐ a) In intersections
- ☒ b) On open stretches of road
- ☐ c) In underpasses or tunnels

**11** What are the road surface conditions when most collisions occur?

- ☐ a) The road is icy.
- ☐ b) The road is covered with packed snow.
- ☒ c) The road is dry.

**12** What is the leading cause of collisions on the roads?

- ☒ a) Driver error
- ☐ b) Vehicle defects
- ☐ c) Road conditions

**13** When you are driving, what do you do when you approach a stopped school bus that has its overhead red flashing lights on and its stop arm extended?

- ☐ a) If you are approaching the bus from behind, you come to a full stop until the overhead red flashing lights are turned off and the stop arm is retracted.
- ☒ b) You come to a full stop, regardless of whether you are approaching from behind or in front. You can drive on when the stop arm is retracted and the overhead red flashing lights are turned off.
- ☐ c) You come to a full stop when approaching from either direction. Then, if the road is clear, you pass the bus slowly.

**14** If you have a licence to drive a car, which of these vehicles can you also drive?

- ☐ a) Motorcycle
- ☐ b) School bus
- ☒ c) Small truck or van

**15** If you were driving the following vehicles, on which ones would you need to wear a helmet?

- ☐ a) Snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle
- ☐ b) Bicycle
- ☐ c) Motorcycle or moped

**16** Doctors say that many of the cyclists who die of head injuries would still be alive today if they had been wearing helmets. How many of those deaths do you think could have been prevented if helmets had been worn?

- ☐ a) 45%
- ☐ b) 65%
- ☐ c) 85%

**17** When do you think most pedestrians are injured?

- ☐ a) When they are crossing an intersection that has no stop sign or traffic light.
- ☐ b) When they run onto the road without looking first.
- ☐ c) When they are crossing an intersection when they have the right-of-way.

**18** At what times of day must you have your headlights on?

- ☐ a) At dusk and through the night.
- ☐ b) Half an hour before sunset, and all through the night until half an hour after sunrise.
- ☐ c) All day and all night.